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Examiner: Dady Chery

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a system including a plurality of encoders each for receiving a first signal and encoding to generate a respective second signal for sending to a respective subscriber, the method comprising:

receiving, in each encoder, the first signal from a first source, while testing a signal path between the a second source and the encoders;

receiving, in each encoder, a third signal from the second source;

generating, from each encoder, a fourth signal based on the third signal;

receiving and examining the fourth signal at the second source; and

subsequently ~~a second receiving step of~~ receiving the first signal from a the second source.